

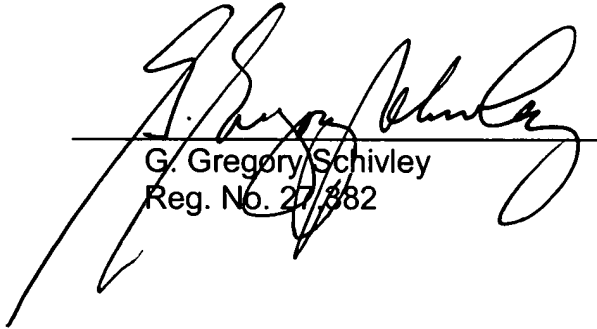
### REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to cancel the elected claims in the parent application and provide a new independent method claim from which the originally submitted non-elected method dependent claims can more properly depend.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 31, 2004 By:

  
G. Gregory Schivley  
Reg. No. 27,382

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600

GGG/msm